

I am a Ham who has passed the Morse proficiency examination. Therefore, it does not matter to me personally if the Morse proficiency examination requirement is kept or dropped by the FCC.

Having said that I believe it would be in the best interest of Ham Radio for the FCC to drop the Morse proficiency examination requirement. I believe that those who want to use Morse code will do so whether they are formally tested or not, but that does not mean we must insist that every license HF Ham must be able to copy Morse code by manual means.

World War II was won by American citizens who had developed skills as a private citizen that were usable by our country in time of war. My father who served in WW2 could keep motorize vehicles in repair and running and that included tanks. In WW2 one of the needed skills by the military was Morse code. That was sixty some years ago. Technology has advanced since WW2. New modes of radio communications have been developed in the last sixty years that will allow most Hams to never use Morse code if they so choose. Examples are Single Side Band, and Digital modes with the aid of a computer.

Today the ability to read and send Morse code has little or no relevance to the likelihood of causing international interference, nor does it make a significant contribution to the training of commercial or military radio operators, as most other services have already discontinued the use of Morse code.

In a time of national crisis our country does not need a pool of trained Morse code operators. Instead our country uses digital communications by computer aided means and our country would need a pool of digital communication operators.

The member countries in the ITU have just voted to drop Morse code proficiency as an international treaty requirement for amateurs operating in the HF bands. They did this because they thought a Morse proficiency examination was no longer required in today's world.

For this reason the FCC should follow the lead of the ITU and drop the Morse proficiency examination requirement in order to issue a General or Extra class Amateur Radio License.

Alvin Riesbeck